FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Process

How does an Artificial Intelligence Award competition work?

Please note that the process varies for Phase 1-3 and Phase 4. The application process for Phase 1-3 is run in two stages:

Stage 1 expressions of interest must meet all award specifications and funding prerequisites to be considered for review (see Phase 1-3 guidance). Applications that do not meet these essential requirements may be rejected at this stage. Eligible applications will be reviewed against the AI Award Phase 1-3 assessment criteria and a selection of applications will be shortlisted and invited to submit a full application. All applicants will be notified of the outcome. Due to the volume of applications we may not be able to provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants at this stage.

The Stage 2 (full application) process varies with the phases:

- For Phase 1, an application form and a 3 minute video pitch must be submitted and will be reviewed by expert and public panel members.
- For Phase 2 and 3, an application form must be submitted and will be subject to peer review. Applicants will have the opportunity to provide a response to reviewers’ comments (rebuttals) and will be invited to present their project at the panel meeting.

For Phase 4, potential applicants are required to self-assess against a number of pre-requisites needed to progress to a full application. Applicants will then be required to submit a full application which will undergo a multi-stage assessment process. For further information please see the Phase 4 Guidance.

How can I find out whether my application is within remit or which Phase to apply to?

Please refer to information on the website and the applicant guidance (Phase 1-3 and Phase 4). If you are unsure which Phase to apply to, we would recommend that you complete a pre-submission enquiry form with details of your proposed project and a member of the AI Award team will be in contact.

How do I submit an application?

Applications must be made through the online application portal. A template application form may be downloaded from the website, however, please note that this is for demonstration purposes only and may not be used to submit an application.

The ‘System Help’ document found on the application portal’s web pages provides extensive step by step instructions on how to make use of the portal.

Can I submit more than one application?

While you may submit multiple applications, we encourage you to submit your strongest application. However, if you do submit more than one application, the differences and synergies between the applications must be made absolutely clear in your proposals. You should make sure you have the resources in place to support all applications, should they all be successful.

What is the deadline for applications?

4 March 2020, 1:00pm

Late submissions will not be accepted unless there is a technical fault of the application portal.
How will applications be selected for funding?
All submitted applications will be reviewed and assessed by a multidisciplinary expert group of selected assessors and a final assessment panel. Funding recommendations will be ratified by the Department of Health and Social Care and NHS England and NHS Improvement, subject to sufficient funds.

When will I find out if my application has been successful?
Please see our website for up-to-date information regarding application outcomes and deadlines. Final outcomes will be communicated from June 2020 onwards.

How many projects will be funded?
The AI in Health and Care Award will deploy £140m over three years. In the first year, Phase 1-3 have an indicative budget of £2-7m, Phase 4 has an indicative budget of £5-10m. Since Phases 2-4 have no upper or lower funding limits, it is not possible to indicate how many projects will be funded. There will be at least two calls for applications each year, so the number of projects will scale up during the three year programme. If you are successful you will not need to reapply each year for additional funding within your phase of support.

Who should I contact if I have any questions?
Please email enquiries@ai-award.info or call 020 8843 8143.

How important is patient and public involvement and engagement (PPIE)?
Involving members of the public and patients in the design and management of the research, evaluation or study is a prerequisite of funding, and for Phase 1-3 PPIE is included as part of the assessment criteria for full applications. If you require support, we would recommend contacting your local Research Design Service.

Do AI Health and Care Award applications require a specific referencing style?
For Phases 1-4, please use Vancouver or Harvard style format.

Where can I find more information on what to include as NHS support and treatment costs?
Please contact your local Clinical Research Network.

Is there any advantage of submitting an application with an NHS host rather than a university host?
The host or lead organisation should be the the main partner driving the project forward. We appreciate that researchers may sometimes have dual affiliations; if you are in doubt about which organisations should be leading please contact the AI Award team.

Can I re-submit an unsuccessful application to a later call?
Yes, we suggest that you do this after acting on any feedback received.

Can I apply to multiple funding sources?
For Phases 1-3, you may apply for funding for the same project to multiple funding sources, for example to the NIHR i4i programme and the AI Award, however, you will only receive funding for a particular project once. We advise you to state parallel applications clearly on your application form. For Phase 4, additional funding is in place and the assessors will consider whether additional AI Award funding is appropriate.

Eligibility
Am I eligible to submit an application?
To be eligible to submit an application to Phases 1-3, you must be affiliated with a Higher Education Institute, Small or Medium Sized Enterprise (SME), NHS Organisation, Charity or local authority. Please note that the lead applicant must be based in the United Kingdom (UK).

To be eligible to submit an application to Phase 4, you must be affiliated with a Higher Education Institute, an enterprise of any size, NHS Organisation, Charity or local authority. The lead organisation may be based anywhere in the world.

Are applications from organisations in devolved administrations eligible?
The AI Award is open to all organisation types across the UK, including NHS organisations in devolved administrations. Technologies appointed onto the AI Award programme can be deployed in any appropriate UK health or care site.

I work for an organisation developing a technology for social care applications, am I eligible to apply?
Yes, organisations that develop or provide social care products or services may apply. This includes SMEs and local authorities.

I am a pre-startup company, may I apply?
Yes, but the contract can only be awarded to legal entities so at the time of contracting you need to have registered your company.

I am part of a large company (i.e not an SME), Can I apply?
Large companies may not apply for Phase 1-3 funding as a lead applicant, however, they may be project partners supporting collaborative projects (for example through in kind contributions).

Information on this for Phase 4 will be added shortly.

My company is a registered charity, can I apply?
Yes, registered charities are equally eligible to enter AI Award competitions.

I am based outside of England, am I eligible to apply?
Organisations within the UK are eligible to apply for and lead Phase 1-3 applications. Organisations outside of the UK may lead a Phase 4 application or be a collaborator on a Phase 1-3 project. Overseas co-applicants must be reasonably justified and all projects must show a clear health benefit to the UK.

Can sub-contractors from outside England be used?
Yes, as long as the applicants can demonstrate how this will benefit the UK health and social care system.

As an SME, can I work in collaboration with other companies?
Yes, you can work in collaboration with other companies.

Legal

Who owns the Intellectual Property (IP) generated by a project?
In general, foreground IP will be owned by the lead organisations. There will be situations where foreground IP might be owned by collaborating organisations. This will be agreed on a case-by-case basis during contract negotiations.

Finance

**As a university, should I use full Economic Costing (fEC)?**
Yes, for Phase 1-3 the same rules apply as for all NIHR competitions (80% fEC). Please read the AI Award Phase 1-3 guidelines (Appendix 2) for more detailed information.

**Should project costs include VAT?**
Yes, project costs may include VAT if it is recoverable.

**Can overheads/indirect costs be included in project costs?**
Overheads may be included for Universities and Small and Medium Sized Enterprises with justification. NHS Organisations should recover overheads through the Research Capability Fund. Please read the AI Award Phase 1-3 guidelines (Appendix 2) for more detailed information.

**During the project, how are funds distributed to collaborators?**
The lead organisation will be paid in arrears and is responsible for distributing funds to collaborators.

**Can the cost of capital equipment be included within an application?**
Capital equipment costing up to £5k can be included.

**Is it possible to give guidance on the upper limit of individual application budgets?**
There is no formal upper limit as we encourage well considered applications, taking into account all aspects required to develop a product that is ready for the next step. As this is the first competition of its kind we are unable to give you an indication of the average budget requested at this stage.